

Message Text

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43

ACTION ACDA-19

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T VIENNA 2216

MBFR NEOGIATIONS; FROM US REP MBFR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: BELGIAN REP ON EC MEETING IN BONN

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN DISCUSSION WITH US REP MARCH 12, BELGIAN MBFR REP ADRIAENSSEN GAVE INFORMAL REPORT ON BONN MEETING OF EC ARMS CONTROL EXPERTS DURING PRECEDING WEEK. ADRIAENSSEN SAID HE BELIEVED DISCUSSION BY THE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS OF THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON EUROPE OF THE US-SOVIET TREAT ON PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR WOULD BE CONTINUED AS A WAY OF PERSUADING FRENCH TO DISCUSS EUROPEAN ASPECTS OF MBFR. DISCUSSION OF MBFR AT BONN MEETING HAD BEEN PURELY PROCEDURAL. ADRIAENSSEN BELIEVED FRENCH WOULD PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE AND EXPECTED POLITICAL DIRECTORS TO APPROVE THIS. END SUMMARY.

2. ADRIAENSSEN TOLD US REP THAT, PRIOR TO MEETING OF EC ARMS

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CONTROL EXPERTS IN BONN, A COMPROMISE HAD BEEN REACHED WITH

THE FRENCH TO CONTINUE EC DIRECTORS' DISCUSSION OF THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF THE US-SOVIET TREATY ON PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR IN RETURN FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSION OF MBFR. IN BONN MEETING, EC EXPERTS DID HAVE A DISCUSSION OF THE US-SOVIET NUCLEAR TREATY BASED ON INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL SUBMISSIONS ANALYZING EFFECTS OF TREATY. THE FRENCH WISHED TO PURSUE THIS DISCUSSION WITH THE AIM OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON A COMMON PAPER WHICH IN THEIR VIEW APPARENTLY WOULD HAVE FUNCTION OF DEMONSTRATING CORRECTNESS OF JOBERT VIEWPOINT ON THE TREATY. NETHERLANDS REPS EXPERTS INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO CUT OFF DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT BY EXPERTS OR BY EC POLITICAL COMMITTEE. THEY INDICATED THAT THE NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER WAS CONCERNED THAT CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION OF THIS TOPIC, FOLLOWING ON HEELS OF THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE, WOULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS.

3. ADRIAENSSEN REPORTED THAT DISCUSSION OF THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF THE NUCLEAR TREATY HAD BEEN INCONCLUSIVE. IT WAS AGREED, IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE FRENCH AND TO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR FURTHER FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSION OF MBFR, TO RECOMMEND TO THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING THIS WEEK THAT THEY SHOULD EXAMINE WHETHER IT WAS POSSIBLE TO DEVELOP A COMMON EC POSITION ON THE TREATY THROUGH COMBINING ELEMENTS OF INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL PAPERS.

4. IN ADRIAENSSEN'S OWN VIEW, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO REACH A GENERALLY WORDED CONCLUSION THAT THE US-SOVIET TREATY HAD SOME POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR EUROPE BUT WAS ALSO A POSITIVE STEP FORWARD. HE FAVORED STRETCHING OUT DISCUSSION OF THIS TOPIC OVER TWO OR MORE MEETINGS OF THE EC POLITICAL COMMITTEE WITHOUT BRINGING IT TO A CONCLUSION IN ORDER TO PROVIDE POSSIBLE BASIS FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSION OF MBFR.

5. ADRIAENSSEN REPORTED THAT DISCUSSION OF MBFR BY THE EXPERTS HAD BEEN TOTALLY PROCEDURAL. FRENCH HAD INSISTED THAT A COMMON DOCUMENT ON TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THIS DISCUSSION BE ADOPTED WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH THAT THERE WERE THREE CATEGORIES OF EC MEMBERS WITH REGARD TO MBFR: POTENTIAL SIGNATORIES, THOSE INDIRECTLY CONCERNED, AND THOSE LIKE THE FRENCH AND IRISH

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WITH NO INVOLVEMENT. FRG REPS GAINED ACCEPTANCE OF A STATEMENT THAT THE NAC WOULD REMAIN THE CENTER OF DECISION ON MBFR ISSUES. THE NETHERLANDS REP MADE AN EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT A DECISION THAT THE GROUP SHOULD FORMALLY REPORT TO NATO ON WHATEVER CONCLUSIONS IT MIGHT REACH. THE FRENCH AND IRISH OBJECTED TO THIS. IT WAS FINALLY AGREED THAT THE US AND CANADA WOULD BE BILATERALLY AND ORALLY INFORMED ON RESULTS OF DISCUSSION. IT WAS LEFT FOR THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS TO DECIDE,

ON THE BASIS OF THIS PRECEDURAL PREPARATION, WHETHER FURTHER
DISCUSSION SHOULD BE HELD. ADRIAENSSEN CONSIDERED THIS WOULD
BE THE CASE. HUMES

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